

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12177

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, XG

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF RFE/RL

REF: BONN 10328 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: FRG FONOFF HAS INFORMED US THAT EC NINE "CORRESPONDENTS" MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 23 (REFTEL) DID NOT IN FACT TAKE PLACE. FONOFF SOURCE REPEATED PREVIOUS VIEWS ON DIFFICULTY IN FINDING APPROPRIATE FORM FOR SUPPORT OF RFE/RL. SUBJECT WILL BE DISCUSSED BILATERALLY WITH UK AT ANNUAL MEETING OF INFORMATION OFFICIERS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN BRIGHTON SEPTEMBER 10-11. FOLLOWING MEETING, SOURCE SUGGESTED, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO REVIEW SITUATION AGAIN. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF MET AUGUST 24 WITH FRAU KRUEGER TO DISCUSS STATUS OF FRG ATTITUDE TO FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF RFE/RL. KRUEGER SAID THAT THE MEETING OF EC NINE "CORRESPONDENTS" SCHEDULED FOR JULY 23 HAD NOT IN FACT TAKEN PLACE, AND THERE HAD BEEN NO SUBSEQUENT FRG CONSULTATION ON THE SUBJECT WITH ANY OTHER COUNTRY. KRUEGER WENT OVER VARIOUS POINTS REPORTED REFTEL, CHIEFLY DIFFICULTIES PERCEIVED BY GERMANS. SHE EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT IT WOULD
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BE POSSIBLE TO MEET THE FOUR MILLION DOLLAR FIGURE THROUGH

SUBSCRIPTIONS ALONE, AND PRACTICALLY RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF INCLUSION OF RFE/RL SUPPORT ITEM IN REGULAR BUDGET. SHE SAID THAT THE FONOFF LEGAL DIVISION HAD GIVEN THE OPINION THAT IT WOULD NOT BE LEGALLY POSSIBLE FOR THE FRG TO FUND THE EMPLOYER'S SHARE OF SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS. KRUEGER SAID GERMANS HAD GIVEN GOOD DEAL OF THOUGHT TO FINDING APPROPRIATE FORM OF SUPPORT, BUT, SHE CONFESSED, WITHOUT MUCH RESULT. INCREASE IN SUBSCRIPTIONS, THOUGH IN ITSELF INSUFFICIENT, REMAINED THE ONLY LIKELY LINE OF APPROACH SHE HAD SEEN.

2. FRAU KRUEGER NOTED THAT THE HUNGARIANS, IN RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN BONN ON ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, HAD FOLLOWED OTHER EE'S IN PROTESTING RFE OPERATIONS. SHE FELT THE HUNGARIAN PROTEST WAS MOSTLY PRO FORMA. THE POLES, SHE SAID, WERE MORE SERIOUS. SHE MENTIONED IN THIS CONNECTION AN AUGUST 10 RADIO WARSAW BROADCAST WHICH MADE THE POINT THAT THE US WAS TRYING WITHOUT SUCCESS TO PUT PRESSURE ON ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES TO SUPPORT RFE/RL. SHE EXPECTED THE POLES WOULD RAISE THE SUBJECT OF THE RADIOS AGAIN IN INFORMAL BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON BASKET III OF CSCE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WILL BEGIN IN BONN AUGUST 27. FRAU KRUEGER ALSO REFERRED TO REPORTS EMANATING FROM THE CSCE TALKS IN HELSINKI, ACCORDING TO WHICH SOVIET SOURCES THERE INFORMALLY SUGGESTED A DEAL UNDER WHICH THE WEST WOULD GIVE UP RFE AND RL IN RETURN FOR A HALT TO JAMMING AND THE ELIMINATION OF RADIO PEACE AND PROGRESS. SHE SEEMED TO BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT RAISE SUCH A DEAL--WHICH SHE SAID WAS NOT A GOOD ONE FOR THE WEST--IN FURTHER CSCE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. FINALLY, FRAU KRUEGER SAID SHE EXPECTED RFE/RL TO COME UP IN THE REGULAR FRG-UK ANNUAL CONSULTATION OF INFORMATION OFFICERS TO BE HELD IN BRIGHTON SEPTEMBER 10-11. (THE GERMAN DELEGATION TO THE MEETING, INCIDENTALLY, WILL BE HEADED BY THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY PRESS SPOKESMAN VON WECHMAR.) SHE SAID WHE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH US AFTER THE MEETING, AT WHICH TIME WE COULD REVIEW THE POSSIBILITIES OF SUPPORT FOR THE STATIONS IN LIGHT OF FRG-BRITISH DISCUSSIONS.

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